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HON. GEORGE ZALMON ERWIN,

CLASS OF 1865,

Died at his home in Potsdam, N. Y., Jan. 16, 1894, at the age of 54 years. In his death St. Lawrence county loses a strong and fearless man in whose hands her interests at Albany never suffered, and the Republican party has lost a very brilliant and aggressive leader. In life he had more honors than usually fall to one man, and in death he is not forgotten. Seldom has the death of a resident of northern New York created such State-wide interest, and few men in the State who were so closely identified with the politics of the day have ever been borne to the grave with deeper sympathy or followed by more sincere expression of admiration from friend and foe and impartial critic alike. It is not often that the legislature adjourns in honor of a former member, but in this case the dial on the clock of legislation stopped that his former colleagues might pay the "tribute of a tear" to one whose kindness of heart won their friendship and whose ability commanded their respect. The funeral was Friday, Jan. 19, 1894, and the attendance was very large. Prominent men from all parts of northern New York were present. President Brainerd represented the college. The special train from Albany brought Lieut.-Gov. Sheehan, Senators Cantor, McMahon, Collins, Mullin, O'Connor, Kilburn and Owens; Speaker Malby, Assemblymen Ainsworth, Fuller, Matthews, Taylor, Foley, Hennessey, Baker and Marrin; J. F. Pierce, superintendent of insurance, and ex-Assemblyman I. L. Hunt. The day was perfect. The body lay in state at his late residence. Beautiful floral tributes surrounded the plain black casket. A constant stream of people passed through the house to take a last look at the dead statesman. The Masons and firemen escorted the procession to the church, where the grand and impressive burial service of the Episcopal church was read, and the remains were deposited in the vault at Bayside cemetery.

Mr. Erwin never supported anything in a half-hearted way. It was all or nothing with him. He took a deep interest in everything that concerned the prosperity of Potsdam, and he was a devoted friend of the Normal school and was treasurer of its local board. He was a magnanimous foe, and he never forgot a friend however humble his circumstances might be.

The following sketch of his life was furnished by the undersigned to the Watertown *Times*:

No one will be surprised; yet no one who knew Senator Erwin will escape being deeply touched by the announcement of his death, which occurred at Potsdam this morning. He is remembered as a man of powerful physique, active, cheerful, energetic. The long months of suffering and confinement have partly prepared those nearest to him for the inevitable end, but to the thousands who have not seen his weakened form, his death seems like the felling of a great tree by a mighty gale. Northern New York has not lost a citizen in many years whose reputation had reached so far and concerning whose life and death so much interest has been manifested as Senator Erwin.

HIS LAST MOMENTS.

Senator Erwin died at 4 A. M. This morning he seemed to about as usual. As had been his habit for several days, he arose at about the hour named and was placed in a chair by his attendant. He sat there a few minutes and then said: "I am getting faint, Jim; I guess you had better get me back to bed." The nurse made haste to respond to his request, but the senator died before he could be moved from his chair.

HIS LIFE RECORD.

In a modest farmer's home in Madrid, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., Hon. George Zalmon Erwin was born January 15, 1840. He was the oldest of a family of four children, and his boyhood days were passed on

his father's farm and in school. He fitted for college at the old St. Lawrence academy in Potsdam and entered Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, in the fall of 1861, and was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. The Rev. Benjamin Labaree, D. D., LL. D., was then the president, and among his college associates were such men as Hon. Aldace F. Walker, ex-interstate commerce commissioner; Col. Lyman E. Knapp, ex governor of Alaska; Rev. Richard H Holmes, D. D., of Pittsburg, Pa.; Judge Richard S. Tuthill, ex-U. S. district attorney of Chicago, Ill.; Hon. Nathan B. Smith, ex-assemblyman of Pulaski, N. Y.; Hon. James K. Batchelder, ex-speaker of the Vermont Assembly; Rev. Ezra Brainerd, LL. D., now president of their Alma Mater; Mayor John A. Mead of Rutland, Vt. Hon John G. McIntyre, delegate-elect to the constitutional convention, and Judson S. Newland, Esq., of New York city, were classmates. Then there was Hon. Julius S. Grinnell, formerly of Massena, N. Y., and famous as the State's attorney who prosecuted the Chicago anarchists; Thomas S. Ford, ex-attorney general of Mississippi; Hon. Abner Smith, the corporation lawyer of Chicago; L. Vernon Ferris, Esq., another St. Lawrence county boy, now a prominent attorney in Chicago; Hon. James M. Slade, judge of the Addison county, Vt., probate court; Hon. David N. Burke, recently appointed consul to Malaga, Spain, and Hon. Charles N. Bell, ex-speaker of the Minnesota legislature and more of equal merit, for though the college is not large, yet its graduates are. With such companions as these his college course was passed, and in the summer of 1865, with only his diploma and unbounded pluck, he was well equipped to begin the real battle of life, for he had been a diligent student.

For awhile he followed farming, and then began the study of law with the late Hon. William A. Dart and Judge Charles O. Tappan, who were then practicing in Potsdam. The firm of Dart & Tappan was well known, and almost every lawyer in Potsdam has been directed in his legal studies by one of these men. After Mr. Tappan became Supreme court judge, the firm of Dart & Erwin was formed and enjoyed a lucrative business until political needs required their time and energy. Though Mr. Erwin was an able lawyer, yet it was in the political arena that he won his most enduring laurels. In the fall of 1881 he was elected to represent the old third Assembly district of St. Lawrence county in the New York legi lature of 1882 by a majority of 2020 and served on the committee on ways and means, on the sub-committee of the whole and on the special committee to investigate receiverships. Elected to the legislature of 1883 by a majority of 1458, he again served on the committee on ways and means and also on railroads, and privileges and elections. Re-elected by a majority of 1702 to the legislature of 1884, his previous experience and well-known ability were recognized by the chairmanship on banks and he again served on the committee on ways and means, privileges and elections and the special committee to investigate the public works department of New York city. Hon. Titus Sheard, Rep., was the speaker. After this honorable record he came into the legislature of 1885. The Republicans were again in power, and Mr. Erwin was the unanimous choice of the Republican caucus for speaker. A man of commanding presence, long experience, acute perceptions, and with a splendid knowledge of parliamentary law, he made a most enviable record. In the session of 1886 the Hon. James W. Husted of Westchester was speaker, but Mr. Erwin was honored by the chairmanship of the ways and means committee and also of the committee on rules, and was a member of the committee of public education and expenditures of the house. His career as assemblyman closed with the session of 1887, during which he was again chairman of ways and means and rules, and member of the committee on federal relations and expenditures of the house.

With such a record he was promoted by grateful constituents from the "popular" to the "deliberative" branch of the State legislature.

Mr. Erwin began his services in the senate in 1888 as senator from the old 20th district, composed of Franklin, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. During his first term he served as chairman of the committee on privileges and elections and as a member of the committees on finance, judiciary, insurance, taxation and retrenchment and public buildings. Returned by a majority of 8481, he went to work with his usual zeal on his second term in 1890, serving on the committees on finance, canals, insurance, taxation and retrenchment, general laws and rules, being chairman of the two last named.

In 1891 he had no opposition, receiving 19,525 votes, and with his well-known ability, supplemented by his long experience and great tact, he was an able fighter in opposing the great Democratic steal of Dutchess county, and as leader of the Republican minority showed himself to be a great parliamentarian, and such a paper as the New York *Times* steadily maintained that the Democrats were out generaled at every point in the Maynard investigation, though the Dutchess county fraud enabled them to out-vote the Republicans. His ability was further recognized by appointments to the following important committees: Finance, judiciary, taxation and retrenchment and rules. He also served with great credit to himself and profit to the people on general important special committees, notably the one that investigated the sugar trust.

Such a man deserves more than passing notice. In college he was second in his class, and has been one of the trustees of his Alma Mater since 1885, and a member of the local board of the Potsdam State Normal school for a long time. Nine years as member of the law firm of Tappan & Erwin shows that Judge Tappan fully appreciated his fine legal abilities, and the firm was dissolved when Mr. Tappan was elected judge of the Supreme court

in 1878. After that Mr. Erwin was associated with his father-in law, the late Hon. William A. Dart, in law practice until his election to the legislature. He always took a deep interest in everything that tended to promote the welfare of Potsdam, and in the legislature the interests of his constituents never suffered. He was a loyal friend and an honorable political opponent. His wife and aged father have the sympathy of the entire community in their great loss.

The reapportionment of the State having joined the counties of Jefferson and Oswego with St. Lawrence, and Mr. Erwin's health having greatly failed, he announced at an early date last summer that he would not be a candidate for election in the new district, and the delegates from St. Lawrence voted with those of the other two counties for Mr. Mullin, after giving expression to sentiments of esteem and of regret in regard to Mr Erwin's retirement, in which the entire convent on joined.

Mr. Erwin was married in 1869 to Miss Caroline Dart, who survives him. An aged father, two brothers and a sister also remain to mourn his loss. He had no children. He was a member of the Protestant Episcopal church and of Racket River lodge, No. 213, F. and A M.

We add a few clippings from the press of the State which show what the people in different sections thought of him:

Ogdensburg Journal: One of the bravest and truest of men, one of the kindest and gentlest of friends, one of the most daring and successful of leaders, passes over to the unknown. . . . . These are the outlines of Senator Erwin's life as told in years and annual or biennial elections; but everybody knows that the real story is between the lines, in the constant struggle for friends and principles in which he believed, in the arduous greatness of deeds done, in the tireless energy of a comprehensive mind and a great and generous heart. The people of St. Lawrence county and of northern New York were kind to Senator Erwin. They gave him continuous support and almost unequalled oportunities, and nobly did he repay the trust confided to him. To him in a great measure do we owe the majestic institution which borders the St. Lawrence three miles above this city. To him is the Normal school at Potsdam under the deepest obligations. To him the people of Franklin, Clinton and Lewis counties owe debts of gratitude which can only be measured by the ability with which he embraced every opportunity; and to him the entire State is under obligations, for he served every corner of this broad commonwealth. But this is ended. The record is made up and the book of life is closed A generous, a grateful and an admiring public witness the departure of one of the men whose lives will stand as land marks in this great belt of northern country—a man whose name will be mentioned with those rugged and sterling characters who leave their impress on the history of their times.

Utica Herald: His record in the assembly was a brilliant one. He was the originator of the present State dairy department. In 1883 he performed notable service as a member of the select committee to investigate receiverships and the public works departments of New York city. In the senate he was entrusted with the Republican leadership, and at all times most ably carried out the policy of his party, while ever striving for legislation that would best benefit the State at large. Untiring in his efforts, and a master of parliamentary resources, he was rarely defeated when he insisted on a measure. An acknowledgment of his legislative ability was shown by his political opponents when they placed him on the important committees of finance, taxation and retrenchment, and rules in the senate of 1892-1893. While in the senate Mr. Erwin was largely instrumental in locating the new hospital for the insane at Ogdensburg. A conspicuous service of a general character was performed as chairman of the special committee which investigated the sugar trust.

Albany Journal: Senator Erwin was a remarkable man in many ways. He belonged to a class which has fewer representatives now than it had 50 years ago. Born on a farm and to a great extent self-educated, he had a natural breadth of mind which led him to take an active interest in many diverse subjects. His wide sympathies and quick perceptions, his tolerance and his extended knowledge of affairs made his public services of exceptional value. In a State where William M. Tweed once looted a great city and controlled a legislature few public men escape the accusation of hints and innuendos especially in the heat of political strife. Senator Erwin was no exception to the rule; but nobody ever seriously believed that he was not an honest man. While his nature was as strong and rugged as his outward physical appearance, there was no trace of venom in his composition. He was a warm friend and a forgiving enemy. Undoubtedly his aversion to contention was a drawback to his political advancement, for he was well qualified by nature to deal with great questions As it was, he saw himself surpassed by men less well equipped than he to assume a leading role in public life. There can be no one who ever came in contact with Senator Erwin and who was capable of appreciating his kindliness, his ready humor and natural courtesy who does not regret with sincerity his premature death. He was "Uncle George" to thousands and the certainty of his sympathy in all cases gave an affectionate significance to the title.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle: Mr. Erwin was one of the most vigorous men in a county long famous for a citizenship characterized by sterling worth and force of character. The county of St. Lawrence, although not very rugged, runs up to the foothills of the Adirondacks, and is in so high a lati-

tude as to have the rigorous climate of Lower Canada. The men of St. Lawrence are like the men of Vermont, and George Z. Erwin was no exception. Of heavy frame and massive features, he was the personification of power. Mr. Erwin was a ready and forcible speaker, and an accomplished parliamentarian. Resolute in action, prompt and skillful in meeting emergencies, he was feared by his Democratic opponents in both houses of the legislature. In the whole course of his service in the legislature he was rarely caught napping. In Senator Erwin the Republican party loses an able and tireless leader, and St. Lawrence county one of its most distinguished citizens.

DEMOCRATIC.

Albany Argus: In the death of Senator Erwin not only the Republican party, but the cause of straightforward and honest politics in the State receives a great loss. Senator Erwin was always a Republican, sturdy and partisan in his political beliefs, thoroughly in accord with the organization of his party, and a sincere and complete representative of the majority of the people of his district. He was a man of un common ability and talent, an orator whose political convictions came from sincere belief in what he said. Democrats and Republicans respected him. As a debater and parliamentarian he showed unusual skill. His knowledge was complete. In the senate his death leaves a gap which cannot be filled. Differing with Senator Erwin completely in political beliefs, we have always respected him for his ability and his straightforward partisanship. Opposed to him constantly in his political career, we recognized that the St. Lawrence county district, the banner Republican district of the State, had in him a representative who faithfully represented the beliefs and wishes of the majority of his constituents.

New York Sun: The State legislature never had a more picturesque character than Mr. Erwin. A paint ing of him now adorns the Assembly chamber. It was placed there immediately after his term of speaker expired in 1885. His personal appearance was such that it was said of him once that he was so homely that he was fascinating. Mr. Erwin's general temper ament was gentle, yet forceful. But he was a fury when he was aroused. He never liked Lieut.-Gov. Jones of Binghamton, and once in the senate he became so enraged that he walked up to the desk and threatened to pull Jones out of the chair. That was a memorable time, especially when Mr. Erwin looked up at the lieutenant-governor and asked, "Are you armed, sir?" Jones would not reply, but bade him come on. Mr. Erwin's colleagues got around him and the quar rel stopped. Mr. Erwin was once thoroughly enraged over the rulings of Lieut.-Gov. Sheehan, and there was another scene in the senate chamber. Mr. Erwin was one of the ablest Republican politicians in New York State. His Republican colleagues clustered around him like gnats. He was their master and leading spirit, and they recognized it as long as he was a member of that body. He was always the friend of Thomas C. Platt, and the two always worked in harmony. Mr Erwin and Ex-Senator Vedder made a trip through Europe several years ago and the reception given Mr. Erwin in the French chamber of deputies was one of the most unique on record. Abroad and at home he was recognized as an able politician. Although educated for the bar, he discontinued practice when he entered public life.

New York Times: Senator Erwin's home in Potsdam was a model one. Charity and hospitality distinguished it, and conjugal happiness reigned supreme. Plain and unostentatious and ever ready to do a kindness to any person, regardless of his station in life, the people of Potsdam long ago learned that he personified the old adage that all is not gold that glitters. Many a young man in St. Lawrence owes his start in the world to the senator's good advice and generous assistance. Mr. Erwin gave liberally to local charities and gave substantial encouragement to every undertaking for the improvement of his village and its people. He never courted notoriety in these matters, and charity was never dispensed by him to win popularity or to put his name in the mouths of the people. He gave because of a generous impulse to do good. The same disposition was manifested during his political career in Albany. If one of his constituents wanted a place he never tired of trying to get it for him. His persistence generally brought something to the surface and his man got it. During the time that he was in the senate it is said that he had more appointments to his credit than any other three senators from the rural districts, and most of the appointees were men who were needy and could be of no use to him politically. Though giving much of his time to politics, Mr. Erwin accumulated a handsome fortune by lucky investments in Chicago real estate and in local business enterprises.

INDEPENDENT.

Buffalo Times: Only a few months ago, when the seriousness of Senator Erwin's illness became known, Lieutenant-Governor Sheehan said of him: "Erwin is the brainiest man I ever met in the legislature. His capacity for thoroughly digesting a subject is truly wonderful. Once he has grasped the facts, he comprehends instantly all the details, he sees every party benefit, he appreciates its vulnerable points and the most politic way of appealing for support of it. He never allows one detail to escape him. His mind is retentive to a surprising degree. He remembers the position which he took and which other senators took in previous legislatures. He is the most undesirable foe of legislation to have on the floor" Every one who has visited the State legislature in recent years remembers Senator Erwin. His was a personality not to be forgotten. He was unquestionably the homeliest man in the legislature. His colleagues used to refer to him jokingly as Fatal-Gift-of Beauty Erwin. He was the leader of his party on the floor of the senate for two years preceding his retirement. His ungainly form, his huge hands and mis-shapen feet, his

monstrous and irregular features, his hoarse guttural voice all gave him a distinction which set off his brilliancy of intellect. It was a keen pleasure to hear him in debate, never prosy, always speaking to the point with sharp thrusts for the enemy and sometimes for his friends. His portrait, gavel in hand, is in the assembly parlor.

HIS CLEVER COMMENT.

Utica Observer: Ex Senator George Z. Erwin, whose death occurred yesterday, was said to be the homeliest man that ever sat in the New York State legislature. It was not an instance of mere absence of good looks; his face was positively homely—almost painfully ugly. This he well knew, and often joked at his own expense in this connection. Some recompense for nature's unkindness, however, the senator had, in a personality that won for him a host of friends and admirers whose regard for him was too sincere to be affected by political differences or party opposition. A few years ago a portrait of Senator Erwin was painted and hung up in one of the rooms of the capitol at Albany. When the picture had been placed, a party of his senate associates escorted Senator Erwin to the room to examine the portrait and pass his judgment upon it. The likeness was excellent, and the pic ture, therefore, correspondingly homely. When asked for his opinion of it, Senator Erwin gazed at it a moment in silence, then turning to his brother senators, remarked, with profound gravity, "Beautiful frame—isn't it?"

T. H. NOONAN, '91.

NOTES ON AUTHORS.

Jane Austen's favorite authors were Richardson, Crabbe, Cowper and Johnson. She makes one of her characters say that a man who cannot be animated by Cowper cannot be animated at all.

Bunyan had a tenacious memory. He was accustomed to write out his sermons after preaching them.

Coleridge as a youth was fond of swimming. One day, while walking in a crowded London street, he imagined himself Leander swimming the Hellespont and struck out his arms as if in the act. He hit a gentleman, who at first was very indignant, but when the explanation was made he was so much amused that he gave the boy a piece of money.

Robert Southey "wrote poetry before breakfast, history between breakfast and dinner, reviews between dinner and supper; and, even when taking a constitutional he had always a book in his hand and walked along the road reading."

Thomas Babington Macaulay was such an indefatigable talker that Sidney Smith speaks of his "eloquent flashes of silence."

Longfellow and Hawthorne were dining together one day at a friend's, when romance subjects happened to come up as a topic of conversation. The friend said he had been trying to persuade Hawthorne to use a story he had told him, giving the outline of Evangeline. Hawthorne did not wish to, so Lonfellow begged for the privilege of writing a poem about it. From this grew our wonderful poem of Evangeline.

Daniel Webster said of Dickens that by his writing he had done more to better the conditon of the English poor than all the statesmen of Parliament.

Irving read so many books of travel that he formed a great desire to go to sea. The only things which prevented his doing so were his great dislike for salt pork and hard beds.

Dr. O. W. Holmes while at school was noted for his propensity for whispering and whittling.

Addison coveted this for his reputation: "I shall be ambitious to have it said of me that I have brought philosophy out of closets and libraries, schools and colleges, to dwell at clubs and assemblies, at tea tables and in coffee houses"

Ben Johnson said of Bacon: "His hearers could not cough or look aside without loss. The fear of every man that heard him was that he should make an end."

DeQuincey first began the use of opium at Oxford.

Charles Lamb was an inveterate punster. Whatever his mood, his puns became an outlet for it.

Defoe was nearly sixty before he wrote Robinson Crusoe. Before that he had been a rebel, a merchant, a manufacturer, a writer of satires, a bankrupt, a secretary of a public commission, employed in five administrations for secret service, and an editor of a newspaper.

M. P.

"BLOWING OFF STEAM."

A frosty winter's night with the snow descending in mighty gusts upon the unfortunate travelers who were obliged, like myself, to exchange the natural and sweet repose of man for American activity. Amid the darkness and gloom of the midnight hour I boarded the train. Before seated I was impressed with the deep bellows issuing forth from the engine, and immediately amid the noise of the bell and mighty whistle we were moving from the station. Regardless of the driving storm, in my amazement I threw up the window and peered into the darkness. The fiery breath

of the monster was heaving convulsively, the sparks were dashing rearward and the steam of that powerful monster seemed without control. We neared a highway and the density of night was pierced by the sharp voice of this demon. We neared a village and the terrible roar of the whistle proclaimed the speed of the powerful engine. We must now be moving at the rate of one hundred miles an hour. The conductor said we were riding behind old faithful No. 29. With a determination to be ready for any crash, I braced myself in the seat while our train sped on in its impetuous dash with whistle piercing forth at every cross road.

After an hour of suspense and terror the train stopped at a station. I got off and found to my disgust and surprise that we had only gone twelve miles. I looked about for explanation and saw that we were riding behind a "pony" engine with a great big whistle.

There are human engines built on a very similar plan, out of proportion and without any regard to symmetry, who are possessed of a vast amount of steam and a great big whistle, which show up well and make a mighty noise in advance, but at the center very little man.

The almost universal tendency of the world and of the college student today is a perpetual blowing off of steam. A man's imagination is an easy thing to mislead. You may, for a time, palm off this "gas" for knowledge and ability of thought, but the people are bound to soon find out that there is a vast amount more of whistling than brains. The steam blown off by this little mechanical engine might have been spent to much greater advantage. Thus with man. If this steam were only held in reserve and put to other purposes, how much good might result to himself and the world.

Personals.

[*The editor of this department appreciates the fact that it is one of special interest to the alumni. But as they are widely scattered and many are unknown to him, he asks them to send to the Undergraduate from time to time whatever items they may come in possession of and thus aid in making this department what the alumni desire it to be and what the editors endeavor to make it.*]

'32. Dr. W. M. Bass, one of our older alumni, is a physician at Dedham, Mass.

'43. John C. Churchill, who was a member of Congress from 1867 to 1871, presidential elector 1880 and Justice of the Supreme court of New York since 1881, is pleasantly located in Oswego.

'45. Joseph H. Hartwell Barrett, who represented Middlebury in the Vermont legislature in 1851–52, and who was U. S. commissioner of pensions from 1861 to 1868, is a resident of Loveland, Ohio.

'47. George N. Boardman, whom many Middlebury people and former students remember, is a Presbyterian clergyman in Chicago. His address is 641 Washington boulevard.

'56. Prof. L. A. Austin, whom very many of the alumni will kindly remember as their instructor, is professor of Latin in Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida.

'57. Treasurer L. D. Eldredge has recently been ill, but is now recovered.

'58. S. E. Burnham, Esq., in connection with other affairs, has a lucrative insurance business at Rutland.

'59. Silas Leroy Blake, D. D., is settled in New London, Conn.

'60. Rev. D. Haskell Adams is pastor of a large Free Baptist church at Gonic, N. H.

'60. John Russ is engaged in insurance, public instruction and journalistic work in Oakland, Cal., 468 20th street.

'62. George H. Sweet, Esq., of Potsdam, N. Y., and a member of the local board of the Potsdam Normal school, has been elected treasurer of the board to succeed the late Hon. George Z. Erwin, '65, who had long been the treasurer.

'63. The last report of the Louisville Industrial school of Reform, prepared by the superintendent, P. E. Caldwell, brings forth entirely new ideas in regard to industrial schools, their future prospects and management.

'63. Rev. Lyman H. Blake has been pastor of the Congregational church at Westfield, Mass., for the past thirteen years.

'67. The *New York World* of recent date says: "David N. Burke is the American consul at Pernambuco. He was consul at Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, and Bahia, Brazil, under Cleveland's first administration, and retained under the Harrison regime. He has recently been named for a similar position at Malaga, Spain. He is probably the best informed foreigner on Brazilian affairs in Brazil. The Brazilian government hold him in great respect."

'68. Charles N. Bell is one of the leading attorneys of St. Paul, Minn.

'69. Rev M. E. Cady is settled in Aurora, Ill., and is presiding elder of his district.

'69. Hon. Frank Church is one of the foremost men of Arapahoe county, Colorado.

'71. Andrew E. Clark is said to be making a fortune in the real estate and insurance business at Des Moines, Iowa.

'71. Prof. Howard recently lectured in Orange, N. J.

'73. Rev. G. Wolcott Brooks is Congregational pastor in Boston, Mass. Address, Englewood street.

'75. Rev. L. D. Bragg is settled with the Methodist church at Woburn, Mass.

'76. Julian Willis Abernethy, Ph. D., is spending a portion of the winter in the South.

'76. Willard R. Cray is an active lawyer in Minneapolis, Minn. Address, 1604 Stevens avenue.

'76. Prof. and Mrs. T. E. Boyce's son and only child died of fever Jan. 16. Resolutions of sympathy and many flowers were given by classes, college and D. U. fraternity.

'80. Sidney B. Cady is profitably settled in Bloomfield, N. J.

'81. H. B. Boice, M. D., is instructor in physical education at Rutgers College.

'82. Frank Brown's address is Milton, Cal.

'86. Charles Billings is professor of Latin and Greek in Troy Conference academy, Poultney, which yearly sends well-prepared students to Middlebury.

'86. Miss M. Belle Chellis' address is Neligh, Nebraska.

'87. J. Theophilus Clark is a journalist of New York city and connected with the United Press association.

'88. Bernard M. Cooledge and Emma D. Sherman were married Nov. 15 at the First Presbyterian church, Mechanicville, N. Y., by Rev. Dr. Hedding of Rochester, brother-in-law of the bride, assisted by Rev. A. McD. Paterson. pastor. The church was elaborately trimmed with roses, ferns, smilax and chrysanthemums; the presents were numerous and valuable. A reception was tendered at the bride's parents' immediately following the ceremony. After a short trip through Vermont and New York they commenced housekeeping at 421 Superior street, Chicago.

'89. C. Kendall Pier Cogswell is teaching in Gambier, Ohio.

'89. R. M. Collins is in Washington, D. C., 921 G. street, N. W.

'89. A. E. Cushman continues to originate editorials on the *Rutland Daily Herald*.

'90. Button & Button have moved their law office to front corner room in Battell block.

'90. E. B. Clift's address is Oakfield, N. Y.

'91. H. M. Goddard was ordained at South Royalton Jan. 3. Invocation and reading Scriptures, Rev. N. R. Nichols; sermon, Rev. V. M. Hardy; ordaining prayer, Rev. C. H. Merrill; charge to candidate, Rev. C. M. Palmer; right hand of fellowship, Rev. A. J. Smith.

'93. E. R. Brown has recently received a government appointment.

Verse.

A JUNIOR EPISODE.

ACT I.

Class in "chem."
10 A. M.,
Junior maid,
Not afraid.

II.

Makes blaze,
Professor prays,
Prof. dusts,
Stuff busts.

III.

Prof. returns,
Sadly learns
Maiden flown,
Heavenward blown.

THE STRENGTH OF THE MOUNTAINS.

Looking into the far away,
Across the snow-waste, cold and gray,
I see the mountains' purple rim,
Like a massive wall 'round the vale within.

As I gaze at them now, at the close of day,
My doubts and fears glide soft away,
I feel their strength and calm repose,
And forget for a moment my human woes.

I have thought of it oft, and the wonder grows;
The secrets deep of the hills who knows?
Are their giant forms imbued with life,
Have they hearts like ours with passion rife?

Oh, mountains grand with the crown of snow,
Do you watch unmoved the ebb and flow
Of the human tide about your throne?
Do you know if the wavelets laugh or mourn?

Ah! I feel your reply as I look again,
Your great heart throbs to our joy and pain,
And often you smile, when Springtime weaves
For your rugged brow a crown of leaves.

Sometimes sadly you hide your face
In a floating cloud like a veil of lace,
And we feel your tears in the rain and mist,
Like liquid diamonds by sun rays kissed.

Oh, friendly hills, we would never stray
From your kindly presence far away;
You are nearer than we to the Heaven we seek;
You are strong and steadfast while we are weak.

Then with hearts of gratitude let us raise
To the bountiful Giver our tribute of praise,
Like those who before us the pathway have trod
For the strength of the mountains we bless thee, our God.

Ninety-six.

Communications.

To the Editors of the Undergraduate:

There is much need of enthusiasm among the boys here in Middlebury, and anything that tends to increase this enthusiasm will be hailed by all with great delight. It is a well-known fact that singing always increases enthusiasm, whether it be in a religious revival or in a political convention; and this is especially noticeable in a body of college students. But in order to have such singing effective it is necessary to have good songs. It is evident that this is one trouble with us; we have scarcely any good songs, and what we have are only modifications of the songs of other colleges. What we need is a song written by an alumnus or student, and written in praise of Middlebury College. Let some of our numerous poets who are in college now or who have graduated devote their energies to writing a good original college song which the students and alumni of Middlebury will always be proud to sing. Whoever does this will always be fondly remembered by Middlebury's true sons.

P. D. Q.

To the Editors of the Undergraduate:

In the winter of 1864 Starr Hall was gutted by fire. We are now in little better condition to resist fire than the students were then. It is true that there is a very good fire department in the town, but owing to the distance from the college to the center of the town and also to the fact that the firemen are suspicious of any alarm coming from the students, a fire in any of the college buildings would have such a headway before the fire companies could get to them that it would then be almost impossible to stop it. What we need is a fire company here at the college. There are certainly enough fellows who would be glad to join such a company, and the college surely ought to be willing to furnish the necessary apparatus. This matter should be acted upon at once and not put off until we have a fire and then complain because we have no company.

P. D. Q.

To the Editors of the Undergraduate:

For the past few months in certain college publications there have been extensive discussions pro and con whether there is too much crowding in college work. Let us look at our routine work in Middlebury. There are three regular recitations each day, each taking one hour. For proper preparation of these at least six hours are required. Fifteen minutes are given up to devotion. Set aside one hour for meals and eight for sleeping. There then remain five and three quarters hours each day for exercise, library work, necessary business letters, religious services and work and social duties.

It is evident from this schedule that Middlebury students are not pushed as are some students. But with the constant supplies of the library to draw from for spare moments, have we too much time at our own disposal?

This is a fact that has been proved probably by thousands of students individually, that when the least work is required the best work is done; and, on the other hand, when the most work is required then the most will be accomplished and without greater apparent effort than before. The secret probably is that less time is wasted when there is a press for work.

This brings the thoughts suggested by one of our professors to one class on wasted time. So much time, minute by minute, is wasted by each student during a day—time which cannot be accounted for as used for work, recreation or exercise, but simply as "loafed away." The verse of our childhood days may apply equally well to some older students, "Work while you work and play while you play."

O.

The Undergraduate.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY DURING COLLEGE YEAR.

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Address all business communications regarding subscriptions or advertisements to the Business Manager.

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Editors' Table.

MANY college publications deplore the fact of various divisions in their respective colleges caused by fraternities and cliques. Feeling has become so strong in some colleges as to seriously affect the prospects of the college. We may justly congratulate ourselves at Middlebury upon the friendly feeling among the students, and we should each strive for a continuance and enlargement of this friendliness.

THOUGH it has often been spoken of, we deem it of sufficient importance to bear repetition till some one shall respond to the call. Almost all of our colleges have a reporter among the students for our city dailies. It is regarded as of vital importance to the college. We surely need a student who will write up in an attractive manner, from time to time, the different phases of college life at Middlebury. Boston and New York papers are devoting special attention to college news and would gladly give Middlebury her share of space. Any one who will take this upon himself will not only benefit the college but will reap much benefit to himself, possibly more than he may think.

A GOOD list of new books has been added to the library. Among these we notice an attractive little volume entitled "College Verse," made up of clippings from college publications for the past few years. In looking this little volume through we find Middlebury unrepresented. This would indicate to those outside that there was no talent for making verse in our college. Yet we are confident this is not the real cause. More probable would it seem that some were concealing this talent. Lovalty to our college and interest for her future welfare demands our best attempts in verse-making.

IT was thought by many last Spring that with the departure of '93 our ball team would be so materially weakened that it would be difficult to place a team in the field this year. However, with thorough and energetic practice, we shall apparently have a good ball team. And this reminds us that we shall need money in order to make any trips or accomplish anything. Will there be a better time to collect it than the present? Let every one pay his atheletic dues. It is a very small sum compared with other colleges and you can easily pay it. Unless the financial matter is attended to in season we shall be obliged, as usual, to fall back on the faculty, expecting a liberal donation from each professor. Now we readly grant them to be benevolent and superior sort of beings, yet we do not believe they have reached that grade of perfection where "the root of all evil" is not dear to them. How often have our professors liberally helped us in our associations when the money was afterward apparently wasted. Every professor is anxious to help in this respect, but we as students ought at least to be reasonable and not expect of the faculty what rightly belongs to the student body to perform.

NONE of our colleges can justly boast of a more thorough and systematic English course than Middlebury. If this be a fact, then our college paper ought to be one of the best published. In this way it would be a true representative of the college. Though the UNDERGRADUATE has been quoted and received favorable criticism during the past year, yet we feel there is chance for improve-

ment. One of our college exchanges says: "The literary departments of many exchanges were below the standard assumed during the year. The UNDERGRADUATE proved a pleasing exception to this."

How much more often might our paper fall in with the majority. A college is judged to a great extent by the paper it sends out. It is impossible for one or two students, in connection with other duties, to issue monthly an ideal college paper. It may possibly reach the average, but it ought to be in the minority. Many of our college publications are cramped by the small amount of literary matter contributed by the students. The UNDERGRADUATE wants really good literature. We now have considerable on hand, but we are waiting for more careful efforts in this line. We as students ought to be willing to help our college in this way, and when you hand in a literary article kindly see that it is of such merit that you will be proud or at least willing to have your name appear at the bottom.

Town and Campus.

Russell, '96, went home, sick, Feb. 13.

Wales, '96, was summoned home Feb. 13.

Only 25 cents. Whole bill with co ord, 50.

Bigelow, '94, was home over Sunday, Feb. 11.

Haydon, '97, had a severe attack of the grip last week.

Prof. Wright is reading Shakespeare with the Freshman class.

Grant, '95, was in Benson Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 10–11.

Drs. Smith and Noble are officially caring for Goodman, '96.

The Hawthorne club met at Prof. Eaton's Tuesday evening, Feb. 20.

Brown, '97, was confined to his room the fore part of the month with grip.

The Pi Beta Phi enjoyed a candy pull at Mrs. S. S. Clark's Friday evening, Feb. 2.

President Brainerd was confined to his house by sickness for a few days last week.

Kimball, '97, who has been sick for some weeks past, is able to attend college again.

Edgerton, '97, is reported as having had the scarlet fever at his home in Rutland.

One of the Freshmen attended a Sophomore class meeting recently as an honorary guest.

The Glee club gave its first concert to a good audience at East Middlebury, Friday, Feb. 9.

There is reported to have been a ham-sandwich famine in Rutland the first of the month.

We wonder why everyone is trying to keep on the right side of the omnipotent 'Scope editors.

The Sophomore class indulged in a ride and feed at Shepard's restaurant on the evening of Feb. 1.

Prof. Howard meets the Junior class every Wednesday evening to read from the American Statesmen.

The Seniors have organized a dramatic society and intend to play the "Merchant of Venice" early next term.

The Junior Y. P. S. C. E of the Baptist church, of which Miss Pollard, '96, is superintendent, enjoyed a social Feb. 3.

Prof.—What is your unknown term in the last equation? Co-ed—U! Prof.—What if *you* had come out negative?

If you have anything against a professor, speak to him about it before you mention it to everybody else in the collge.—*Ex.*

Goodman, '96, who has been sick with scarlet fever for some time, is improving. His mother has been taking care of him.

On account of the severe storm and sickness in that town, the Glee club did not go to Shoreham Thursday evening, as intended.

Miss Miranda, daughter of President Brainerd, has been very ill with pneumonia for several weeks past, but is now reported as improving.

Miss Roseman and Mrs. Barton, '97, rendered some vocal and instrumental music at the lyceum on Munger street Wednesday evening, Feb. 14.

Ross, '95, has been elected one of the auditors at the boarding hall to fill the vacancy caused by the absence of Fullam, '95.

The Sophomores took their final examination in the German grammar on Friday, Feb. 9. They will read Riehl's "Das Spielmanskind" for the rest of the term.

The class in Zoology had an examination Feb. 13. Each member of the class is required to present a thesis on an assigned subject before the end of the term.

Wise Soph.—Wouldn't we live longer if we didn't eat any salt? Prof.—Possibly, but I don't think it advisable for members of the class to try it for some years yet.

Load of Sophs spying two men on sidewalk on the evening of Feb. 1: Soph No. 1—"Hello there, Freshies!" Soph No. 2—"Gosh! that's two of the professors!"

The UNDERGRADUATE reporter lost his note book not long since, containing many notes of interest, amounts due and paid out; thereby seriously affecting Town and Campus notes for this issue.

We had a dream the other night
When everything was still;
We dreamt that each subscriber came
Right up and paid his bill.—*Ex.*

The young men of the Freshmen class had a banquet at Rutland Feb. 1, leaving on the 10:21 P. M. train and returning on the morning "flyer." Short toasts were responded to by the members and a generally good time was enjoyed.

A professor casually remarked, after surveying the Greek room the morning following St. Valentine's day, that apparently Greek art had lost its power over the students of Middlebury or else there were some who had never heard of it.

"Here's to '94, its like ne'er seen before;"
"Here's to '95, may its members live and thrive;"
"Here's to '96, its members all are bricks;"
"Here's to '97, its the brightest class alivin';"
"Here's to '98, its members are first rate."—*Ex.*

The following is handed the editor from a very worthy source, for publication and will doubtless prove valuable information to those interested: The Freshmen celebrated St. Valentine's day by hanging portraits of several of the best-looking members of their class in the Greek room.

The Sophomores came on chapel stage for the first time Feb. 3. The second division came on Feb. 10, and the Freshmen had thoughtfully provided pigeons for the occasion. At a given signal about eight of these Freshmen's innocents were let loose and attracted considerable attention during the rest of the exercises.

The President's remarks at chapel on a rccent morning and the frequent outbursts of laughter in all the classes have brought to mind the saying of Goethe: "Men show their character in nothing more clearly than by what they think laughable." It perhaps would pay us all to pause an instant to analyze a thought when it presents itself, to see whether it is really worth laughing over or not, if it is true that we show or characters by what we laugh at and how we laugh.

The following story from "Ella" is said to contain a moral. Perhaps you have read it, but good things will bear repeating: Mr. A. goes to the well one bright moonlight night to draw water. Looking into the well, he sees the moon reflected there. "Well, well," exclaims he, "the moon has fallen into the well. I must get a rope and pull that moon out again." So he gets a rope and attaches a hook and lowers it into the well. The hook catches on a rock and Mr. A. begins to pull. Harder and harder he pulls, but the moon still refuses to come up. All at once the rope breaks and Mr. A. immediately finds himself in a prostrate position with face towards the zenith. He begins to nurse his bruised body and bewail his fate, till looking up into the sky once more he sees the moon sailing along as grandly as ever, and exclaims with animation, "Well, I got that moon out of the well anyhow."

The *Register* gives the following: "A professor of the college was down Court street the other evening, when he was accosted by a befuddled youth, who asked, 'Do you know anything about law?' Being a professor, of course he couldn't own to complete ignorance of anything; so he gave an evasive answer. His questioner thereupon told of his woes. He had, it appeared, procured in some way a bottle of the deadly compound known locally as 'jack,' and, after becoming the worse for the drinking of a portion thereof, a companion had stolen the bottle. Subsequently he ran down his despoiler in a store, and the bottle, apparently still of value because of its contents, was restored to him. But when he came to investigate he found it contained nothing but water. Hence his desire for the aid of the law, and the professor couldn't help but answer affirmatively the question: 'Don't you think there ought to be some way of taking the law on him?'"

THE SENIOR DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION.

The action of the members of the Senior class in organizing themselves into a dramatic association, not only furnishes an opporttnity for whatever histrionic

ability now dormant in the class to become patent, but also, if the enterprise is successful, will establish a precedent worthy of being perpetuated. The high character of the play to be presented, "The Merchant of Venice," accords with the tone which is expected of college amateurs. The time when the play will be presented has not yet transpired, but April 1 will be the approximate date. The following is the cast of characters:

Shylock,	Hayes.
The Duke,	LaFleur.
Antonio,	Bigelow.
Bassanio,	Sargent.
Sabiano,	Toleman.
Gratiano,	Eddy.
Jubal,	Chapman.
Salanio,	H. Seely.
O. Gobbo,	Chapman.
L. Gobbo,	Wilcox.
Lorenzo,	Wells.
Portia,	Miss Ritchie.
Jessica,	Miss Ranslow.
Nerissa,	Miss Clark.

Orville W. Owen, M. D.

Dr. Orville W. Owen of Detroit, Mich., has discovered a practical scheme of cipher writing in which he asserts that Francis Bacon, for the purpose of concealing the secret histories which he wrote "for posterity," composed all the plays of Shakespeare, Christopher Marlow, Robert Green and George Peele; the Anatomy of Melancholy of Robert Burton, and the works of Edmund Spenser. These, taken in connection with the undisputed works of Bacon, constitute the general fabric into which are woven the threads that form the cipher stories.

"The Letter to the Decipherer." It purports to have been written and signed by Sir Francis Bacon, and it is a luminous exposition of the cue (or key) words and their corollaries that are the basis of the cipher. It instructs the decipherer how to proceed and it was by following these instructions that Dr. Owen achieved his great discovery. This letter naturally comprises the first division of the volume that is now made public.

The second division is entitled "The Epistle Dedicatory," and is likewise addressed to the decipherer, who has been nearly three centuries coming. In this "Epistle" Bacon says: "For thirty-three years have we gone in travail with these, the children of our wit," and he expresses the belief that the confidant of his secret will find it worthy of praise for "the perfection of the stories and histories which we have written, and hid in the whole of our writings."

The third and largest (unfinished) division of the book comprises a description of Queen Elizabeth, an extraordinary composition called the General Curse, and Bacon's Autobiography.

College Notes.

A first-class man—a Freshman.

Yale has an instructor in boxing.

The University of Pennsylvania foot-ball eleven have ordered leather suits for next year.

The smallest university in the world is in Africa, with five students and twelve instructors.

Caps and gowns will be worn by the graduating classes of nine New England colleges this year.

A song book will be published at Tufts by the Junior class in place of the regular annual.

Claverly Hall, at Harvard, has been closed on account of an outbreak of scarlet fever in the dormitory.

Yale's new base-ball cage is in part the gift of an undergraduate who withholds his name for the present.

Nine Rutger's students have been summoned into court for painting the president of the Sophomore class with green paint.

The Yale University faculty has decided to estab-

lish two prizes, of $100 and $50, respectively, for the encouragement of extemporaneous speaking.

Prof.—How would you punctuate the sentence, "Alice a beautiful girl is walking down Broadway?" Freshie—I would make a dash after Alice.—[*Ex.*

Chauncey M. Depew said to the students of Yale recently: "What made the class of '53 so famous is that half of its members went into journalism and praised the other half."

Came to college,
Joined the 'Leven;
Played in one game,
Gone to Heaven.
—[*Nebraska Wesleyan.*

It is estimated that $100,000 changed hands at Springfield Thanksgiving day, $7,000 having been lost by a single college student. If this continues, we prophesy as strong a reaction against college foot ball as there has been against the Gloucester races.

He would turn a new leaf over,
As all should on New Year's day;
Yet he found he lived no belter—
He had turned it the wrong way.
—[*Polytechnic.*

"*Tempus Fugit*", said the Romans;
Yes, alas, 'tis fleeting on;
Ever coming,
Ever going,
Life is short and soon 'tis gone.
But as I think of next vacation,
Poring o'er these lessons huge,
Ever harder,
Ever longer,
All I say is, Let her *fuge*."—[*Ex.*

The Amherst College Sophomore-Freshman row over canes and class pictures has resulted in a suit by Photographer Kenfield of Amherst for $10,000 against six Sophomores. The boys are charged with conspiracy and assault on a messenger who had in his possession the coveted picture. The Sophomores, to remove the stigma of having been circumvented by the Freshmen, forged an order on Photographer Kenfield, and when the messenger started off with the picture he was pounced upon by half a dozen Sophs, who secured the picture, which they sent to Hartford and had retaken according to their ideas of Freshman photography.—[*Ex.*

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